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The Swedish Unions within Industry are scaling up wage demands

The Swedish Unions within Industry have today presented their wage demands ahead of next year's collective bargaining. We demand wage increases of 4.4%. We also demand a specific increase in the minimum wages and provisions for part-time pensions.

'The current situation is difficult. We have Russia's war in Ukraine, lingering effects of the pandemic and rising prices of food, fuel and energy. At the same time, there are glimmers of hope. So far, the Swedish industry is doing well,' says Marie Nilsson, President of IF Metall.

The Swedish Unions within Industry's scaled up wage demands are based on the following:

- Swedish competitiveness is strong. Sweden holds its own against important competitor countries.
- Swedish industry shows good profitability overall. There is no reason to increase profits further at the expense of wages.
- In addition, Sweden is seeing a favourable development in the labour market.

Next year's collective bargaining will take place at a time when many people are worried about increased living expenses.

'When prices and the cost of living are increasing, you naturally want wages to increase at the same or a higher rate. However, this would have the opposite effect. If we were to demand wage increases to compensate for inflation, it would lead to an even higher inflation rate and, in turn, higher interest rates. It would also put people's jobs at risk because price increases make it more difficult for the industry to export,' explains Veli-Pekka Säikkälä, Head of Collective Bargaining.

Marie Nilsson and Veli-Pekka Säikkälä feel that the upcoming collective bargaining process will be a tough one. As usual, employers will paint a grim picture of the economy, arguing that there is no or very little room for wage increases.

'But we know that is not true. The situation for the Swedish industry is better than employers want to acknowledge. We will put pressure on the employers and make every krona count,' says Marie Nilsson.

Facts:

For more information and updates on the collective bargaining process, go to ifmetall.se/aktuellt/avtal-2023

Here, you can also watch the Swedish Unions within Industry making demands for wage increases.

Stay tuned for updates on the collective bargaining process!

